



2013.09.30

Sharing from South Africa youth retreat Part II

[Jenny Chen] I attended a few youth camps over the years and every year I look forward for God drawing me closer to Him in ways that equips me to be a more faithful and joyful servant for the Lord. This year, I am so thankful the Taiwan Missionary Team came and shared their testimonies with us. These testimonies really inspire and convict us to share our lives with others. We want to share with them how God's great works can change our life.

During the camp, we learned a lot from each other, from friends as well as strangers. I believe that these encounters are important to teach us how to share God's gospel and to present our testimony. The camp really shows that Christians can have fun and at the same time build up relationship with each other. Everything was well organized by the Taiwan STM team and the various activities were very entertaining. The movie was especially touching and it has a wonderful message.



I hope that everything I learned will be used to spread the love of Jesus through my life. After the camp, I hope to be more confident in talking with people about His salvation and also what God has done in my life. I pray that God enables me to show others that as His followers, everything we do is for Him and we do it whole heartily. As I serve and show love to others, I want to let more people know it is because God loves us first and in return I want to show that I love God too.

I am thankful for my youth buddies for serving while enjoying the camp to the fullest. Rev. Douglas, Aunty Whitney and Alex are always such a great example to all the youth and I appreciate all the work that they do because they do it to glorify our Lord.

[Helen Wu] My most memorable event during the camp is the afternoon group games. It's memorable because the games we played were fun and it also required teamwork. Even though there



were minor arguments, we were still able to work as a team and support each other and have fun together. From the games I learned that everyone in the group was

important and that everyone has a trait to contribute. It is really amazing to see how God uses different talents and gifts from each team member by working together as a team in order to complete our assigned task. Eph 4:12 said, "for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ."

[Clarence Wu] The most memorable moment of the Camp was that we have a lot of fun. The second night, we put together a skit on stage by portraying a person through acting out his or her life stories. We have so much fun yet it's very meaningful to see our life on

stage. My group is the coolest team. We worked through every single obstacle with teamwork and team spirit. Also getting to know new friends was nice.



Listening to the Taiwan STM missionary testimonies was very heart touching. It was important for us to know how much this STM team has to give up in order to come to South Africa to share God's love with us. Some has to take off work, their time and school. The morning activity was always nice. All the meals were

so delicious. The Angel system/game was so fun and seeing how people shows their love by taking care for each other. On the first day of the camp my heart was touched that I was reminded that during these past five years, five different groups of Taiwan missionaries had come to lead the retreat. Wow! Never knew that time could fly so fast.

I have always loved youth camp and said "this is the Best Camp I have ever attended" at the end of each camp. But now I realize that every single camp I went was the best camp.

[Y.Y. Chen] When I begin to reminisce this youth camp, I begin to give thanks. The first time I attended the camp was three years ago when I started to tend the shop. That was so inconceivable as I couldn't think of anyone who could come to take my place while I attended retreat. In the end, I thank the Lord that one week before the camp, He arranged my cousin to come and help me out, allowing me to enjoy the time to spend with my church body.

Last year, my older uncle was able to mind the shop. And then this year, it's my younger uncle's turn. I give thanks to the Lord time and time again, grateful that He prepared everything and that He listened to my prayers.

The theme of this year's camp was "Along the Way with You"; using the title of the movie (original title "Simon Birch") we were to watch in the morning of day 2. The movie is about the story of the main character Joe and his friend, Simon Birch. Birch was someone who had great faith in God. He believed God created him according to His plan and someday He will use him. And when that day comes, he would also be willing to act according to God's will. And that had an enormous effect on his best friend, helping him to know God.

After the movie we had discussion time. We talked about the accidental killing by Birch of Joe's mother, but Joe was willing to forgive him. We all thought it's amazing that Joe was able to forgive

Birch and felt that when someone made a mistake unintentionally we ought to learn how to forgive. Not wait till time passed, or trying to save face and not being able to speak, turning a good friend to a stranger.





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During the activities in the camp, we also learned how supporting each other would bring joy, because during the process, we can let go and become joyful. It's the same in our relationship with God, always being reminded to rely on Him. But sometimes we still want to rely on our own strength until we find out that we are not able to accomplish this on our own. Then will we hand the control over to Him. Discovering that His plan is much more suitable than what we want is a lifetime lesson. Through out our life, we all need to learn to lean on the Lord and not on ourselves.

What impressed me the most were the prayers on day 3. Once again I experienced God's power and His loving kindness, truly more than we asked or imagined. I had thought I already let go of the matter but He knew my heart more clearly than me. He even told me through someone that He knows I was afraid. But also that He will comfort me because He loves me. Psalm 147:3 said, "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." I John 4:9 said, "This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him."

Thank you, Lord. May glory and praises

[Chiara Fu]-- This was the first time I attended the youth camp. It was much more interesting than I expected, really very unusual and fun. The most meaningful event was the small group times and the fireside gathering; I was able to hear others' testimonies. This allowed me to know other brothers and sisters better as well as Jesus more.

I think the movie we watched the next morning, "Along the Way with You", was an excellent movie. I was very moved watching it and learned how to treat others and handle difficult situation. The small group activities afterwards nurtured camaraderie among the members of our fellowship. Through the games we also learned how to handle issues, big and small, in our daily lives. And we had lots of fun playing as well. Among the small group activities, my favorite was hitting the balloons because it fostered a seamless collaboration. The game brought me to reminisce of my childhood days.

Finally, I am thankful for the new friends I made at this camp. Also I didn't oversleep from day 2 through day 4. The food served during the four days there was delicious. The activities allowed me to



have a better understanding of the people and a most enjoyable time with friends. After the closing ceremony, an older brother who was a counselor even gave me snacks brought from Taiwan.

☆ PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Ask that the Lord will remember Rev. Douglas Wu's serving, multiply strength in him physically and spiritually, continue to grant power, and wisdom.
2. Continue to pray that the Lord will protect and guide everything for Alex Ko and his family in Taiwan. Also that they will follow Christ whole-heartedly, and become vessels that are after God's own heart.

3. Pray for sister Chrisna as she leads and teaches the English class at the Pretoria Fu Qing Church.
4. Rustenburg Chinese Church has been established. Please pray that the five deacons' spiritual lives will be renewed and be a good testimony to the local believers.
5. Rev. Douglas Wu has safely arrived in the U.S. on 9/27 for home assignment. Ask that the Lord will lead him in the sharing of the CIM ministry in various churches in Chicago and the Bay Area and that it will be pleasing to Him, allowing more people to know about, affirm and support CIM.
6. Ask that the Lord of harvest to send workers to reap the harvest in the fields of South Africa and Brazil.
7. Public safety in South Africa has been getting worse. Pray earnestly that God will watch over our brothers and sisters as well as the Chinese diaspora living there.
8. Brothers and sisters of the Brasilia Chinese Church are so busy in making a living that they neglect to seek spiritual growth or to serve in ministries. Please ask that the Lord will impel the coworkers to encourage them more to be used as God's vessel and to set them on fire for a willingness to seek spiritual, rather than worldly, things.
9. The CIM annual board meeting will be held on Oct. 28. Pray for travel safety to all the out of town board members and that the board will be united in planning CIM ministry in the coming year so that it will be pleasing to Him.
10. Pray to the Lord to grant abundant providence to CIM's financial needs in the coming year.
11. Ask the Lord to add coworkers to serve jointly at CIM.
12. Pray for Mrs. Christine Pi's eyes be healed and that she will have good health.

☆ FINANCIAL REPORT August 2013

	Income	Expense	Balance
General	\$4,478	\$6,983	-\$2,505
Missions	\$4,057	\$3,741	\$316
Total	\$8,535	\$10,724	-\$2,180

If you have a burden for the CIM ministries, you may send in a check payable to CIM and mail it to P.O. Box 700185, San Jose, CA 95170-0185, USA. Thank you!

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